

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending. No claims have been amended or canceled.

Claims 1, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to be supported by an enabling disclosure. Specifically, the Examiner has requested that applicant point out the support for this limitation in the specification. The full limitation from claim 1 reads as follows: “an input accepting section for accepting input by a user to designate a sender e-mail address which is distinct from a sending station address specifying the network scanner device,” and claims 11 and 12 recite a similar feature. Paragraph [0070] of the published specification describes an exemplary configuration of an operation panel 12 of scanner device 1 with sender registration key 48 and numerous other keys for character input, as depicted in Fig. 4. Paragraph [0073] discloses that the scanner device can set up a sender address (representing a sender) in place of the sending station address. Paragraphs [0076] and [0078] disclose two techniques for a user to input an email address as a sender address via operation panel 12. Applicant respectfully submits that this disclosure clearly describes and enables the input accepting section as required by section 112.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Itoh (US 2001/0021037) in view of Partial Translation of JP 2000-215124 (JP ‘124) and Takayama (US 2002/0133564). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites “an input accepting section for accepting input by a user to designate a sender e-mail address which is distinct from a sending station address specifying the network scanner device” and “a second setting section for setting up the inputted sender e-mail address in place of the sending station address when the sender e-mail address is inputted via the input accepting section.” Accordingly, the claims specify that a sender email-address inputted by a user is added to the image data in place of the sending station address when the sender e-mail address is inputted.

The Examiner concedes that neither Itoh nor JP '124 discloses or suggests the claimed input accepting section. Instead, the Examiner compares the claimed input accepting section with Takayama's disclosure of a selection technique by which a user may select a desired destination from a list of destinations. But the claimed input accepting section accepts input to designate a sender e-mail address which is then set up in place of the sending station address, rather than a destination address. In contrast, Takayama's list of destinations are e-mail addresses to which a mail from the sending station may be sent. Takayama does not disclose setting up a selected destination address in place of the sending station address. Accordingly, Takayama does not disclose an input accepting section for accepting input to designate a sender e-mail address, as claimed. Since none of the applied art discloses or suggests this feature, the claimed invention would not have been obvious.

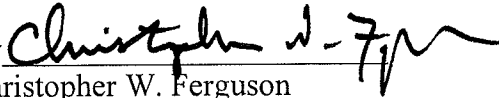
In addition, the Examiner concedes that Itoh does not disclose or suggest the claimed second setting section. Instead, the Examiner compares the claimed second setting section with the disclosure in JP '124 of an e-mail address input by a user as a "sending station address." This comparison is improper. Unlike the claimed "sender e-mail address," which is inputted by a user and set up by the claimed "second setting section" in place of a sending station address, the e-mail address in JP '124 is set up as the sending station address. (See JP '124, paragraph [0039], "An e-mail address of a PC or a WS, which is usually provided at a sender's seat, is inputted as a sending station address.") In other words, in JP '124 there is no substitution of an inputted sender e-mail address in place of a sending station address, as required by the claim, because the e-mail is the sending station address. Because JP '124 fails to disclose setting up an inputted sender e-mail address in place of a sending station address, as required by claim 1, JP '124 fails to cure the defects in Itoh. Takayama also does not remedy Itoh's defects. Since none of the applied art discloses or suggests this feature, the claimed invention would not have been obvious for this additional reason.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 11 and 12 recite similar features as claim 1 and are thus allowable for similar reasons. The remaining claims are allowable due to their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **204552031700**.

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